

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for guiding fish tape in a conduit, the apparatus comprising:
 - a rounded head having an abutting end;
 - a stabilizing skirt attached to the rounded head at the abutting end; and
 - an attachment mechanism connected to the rounded head within the stabilizing skirt, the attachment mechanism further comprising a shock absorber affixed to the rounded head at the abutting end within the stabilizing skirt.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rounded head is a hemisphere.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rounded head has a smooth outer surface.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rounded head and the stabilizing skirt coterminously abut one another at the abutting end.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stabilizing skirt is resilient.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stabilizing skirt has a feathered portion having a wide end opposite a narrow end.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the stabilizing skirt has a frustoconical portion having a second wide end opposite a second narrow end, the narrow end of the feathered portion and the second wide end correspond in shape and attach to one another.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the abutting end and the second narrow end correspond in shape and attach to one another.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9¹, wherein the shock absorber is pliable.

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9¹, wherein the shock absorber extends from the abutting end of the rounded head within the stabilizing skirt.

12. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9¹, wherein the shock absorber has a concave recess facing the attachment mechanism.

13. (Currently amended) An apparatus for guiding fish tape, the apparatus comprising:

guiding means for guiding the fish tape through a conduit;

stabilizing means for stabilizing the guiding means in a central portion of the conduit, the stabilizing means connected to the guiding means and being configured to suspend the rounded head near a central portion of the conduit; and

attachment means for attaching the fish tape to the guiding means, the attachment means connected to the guiding means within the stabilizing means.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the stabilizing means is resilient.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising buffering means for absorbing forces applied from the fish tape, the buffering means affixed to the guiding means between the attachment means and the guiding means.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the buffering means has a receiving means for accommodating the fish tape, the buffering means facing the attachment means.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the guiding means and the stabilizing means coterminously abut one another.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the guiding means has a smooth outer surface.

19. (Original) A method for guiding fish tape through a conduit, the method comprising:

affixing the fish tape to a fish tape guide having an attachment mechanism attached to a rounded head and positioned within a stabilizing skirt;

positioning the fish tape guide into the conduit such that the rounded head is directed forward; and

pushing the fish tape through the conduit.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising twisting the fish tape to reposition the fish tape guide inside the conduit to negotiate the fish tape through the conduit.